NOTE OF PETERHEAD DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, 2nd July 2019

Chamber, Buchan House, Peterhead


Jacqueline Bennett (via skype).

Apologies:  Councillor Alan Fakley and Terry Moran.

Welcome and apologies

Councillor S Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Apologies were received from Councillor A Fakley and Terry Moran.

Note of Last Meeting held on 16th April 2019

The Note of the meeting held on 16th April 2019 was approved by Councillor N Smith, seconded by Councillor D Beagrie.

Regeneration Plan Mid-term Review

The Council’s Regeneration Strategy was agreed during 2016, covering a 5-year period. £5.8m has been committed across the four towns. We are now halfway through the 5-year period and it is time to take stock and review any situations which may have changed. At the September Development Partnership meeting we will concentrate the agenda on looking at where we are with the priorities of the Peterhead Action Plan and discuss if any changes are required.

Arts and Culture Proposal

Jacqueline provided an update on the ongoing discussions which are taking place regarding the Arts and Culture Proposal for Peterhead. There will be 4 priorities within the proposal – physical aspects, social engagement, perception of town and place and international links. Christine, Nick, Jacqueline and Saskia Gibbon have been working on an ambitious project for the town.

Jacqueline confirmed that there is a great passion for the theatre in Peterhead. It may be that a permanent cultural offer could sit side by side with the theatre. There could also be a tie in with the Peterhead Community Campus. Everything will be for the greater good of the community. It was agreed that this would be good to keep all the “theatre users / cultural groups” up to date with the proposal once we are able to do so.

Action

CWeb
Once a more concrete proposal is available, an open call will be put out to all groups. 

It was agreed this is a great opportunity, but we need to get it right. Theatre and Cultural provision on the site would be great, however, the venue needs to be fit for purpose.

Nick confirmed we must find the right balance between strategic and local. The project will need to boost the whole town. This is a very exciting prospect for Peterhead.

Jacqueline advised that there is a huge scope for creativity in the town. The proposal will be aiming high, very ambitions and create a real legacy for the people of Peterhead.

Once the proposal has been finalised the financial implications will be reported to the Buchan Area Committee.

**RGU LINA Project**

Sally Charles from Robert Gordons University introduced the Library Innovation Network Aberdeenshire, RGUs entrepreneurship and innovation group.

The group will aim to create new ventures, support industry and build communities of innovation. There are currently 25 teams which have progressed from boot camp which was held in January. A network of mentors has been extended to North Aberdeenshire and will be working in partnership with libraries.

The group have recently secured Leader funding and are currently in the progress of getting contracts signed. 2 Project Co-ordinators will be employed.

Councillor N Smith queried whether the project could be extended out to Mintlaw once the library is relocated within Macbi - this was a possibility.

Sally advised that the first meeting has been arranged to take place on 16th July and the schedule would be determined at this meeting. It is hoped to link in with the schools via the library.

There will be opportunities for BID to work alongside the project also.

It was agreed access to this project in Peterhead will be fantastic.

**Action Plan Project Updates – Campus**

A big decision was made last week at the Full Council meeting for the Kinmundy site. Work is being carried out on what the Community Campus will be.
The impact on the town centre has been recognised and the first steps are being taken. Queries raised at previous Development Partnership meetings regarding attendance rates / pupils from less advantaged areas getting to the new Campus also need to be considered.

The thinking needs to be put in place now for the existing Academy site. It is a very large town centre site.

Councillor N Smith added that the Scottish Futures Trust should come forward with some news in the next 6 to 8 weeks, and hopefully Peterhead will be one of the new projects.

John queried what mitigation measures were being put in place regarding the impact on the town centre – this will be of interest to Rediscover Peterhead and the levy payers. How can Rediscover Peterhead assist? Chris confirmed that nothing has been formally published and more in-depth work needs to be carried out. It is important to start these discussions now.

The Impact Study will be carried out now that the Community Campus site has been agreed.

Discussions with Partners and Rediscover Peterhead will be arranged for a future date.

Phyllis added that the current Academy site would be the perfect location for a retirement village – on the bus route and close to a supermarket.

**Chapel Street**

A couple of meetings have taken place with Members, Officers, Police, Stagecoach and Rediscover Peterhead to discuss Chapel Street. The discussions from the meetings will then be reported to the Buchan Area Committee.

The Local Authority are listening to the traders and the potential of permanently reopening Chapel Street with loading bays and bus stops are being looked at.

**Clerkhill**

A funding application has been submitted to Sustrans “Places for Everyone” funding. A decision will hopefully be heard within the next few weeks. In the meantime, the legal works are underway for the adoption of the area.

If we are unsuccessful with our application, the project will keep to the current timeline, however, if we are successful the timeline will need to be amended to allow for the full detailed design.
Drummers Corner

The tender has been reissued for Drummers Corner with a closing date of 19th July. A funding application for £145,000 from the Scottish Government Town Centre was successful which will assist with the transformational project. Timescales for Drummers Corner should be available by the end of July.

Festival Updates

Scottish Week – Karen provided a very informative update on the Peterhead Scottish Week. Scottish Week was first introduced to Peterhead in 1961 and has gone from strength to strength ever since. Scottish Week is a self-funded charity and brings a week of events to the town every year – starting on the 3rd Saturday in July (lasting 9 days).

The Development Partnership thanked Karen for the update and wished the Committee continued success for the years ahead.

Light Up Peterhead – Phyllis advised that Rediscover Peterhead have come onboard with Light Up Peterhead and have guaranteed funding for new Christmas lights. Funding applications have been submitted to several avenues for the switch on event. The lorry parade will be repeated this year, there were over 100 lorries last year providing a fantastic display. There will also be a 6 – 8 minute firework display this year.

Phyllis was thanked for her update and the Development Partnership wished the Committee every success for future events.

Greening Peterhead

A Capacity Building event “Greening Get Together” was held recently in Buchan House. A variety of speakers attended and provided very useful information. A feedback pack is currently being put together following the event. Some follow up activity has already taken place. Unfortunately, there were no new projects which came forward at the event.

There were some practical projects/ideas – a couple examples were small areas of green spaces within the town centre, planting wildflowers, involving the Academy pupils, managing green spaces differently etc.

Collieburn Park is a priority project. Work is currently being carried out on a design for a cycle path linking Collieburn to the Formartine and Buchan Way.

Green Spaces and Biodiversity Officers have been appointed, funded by Leader. The Officers will be working on lots of community engagement.

Eleanor advised that a small group (Chris, Nick, Brian Shand and Eleanor) have been meeting to discuss greening projects.
Invest in Peterhead

A collaboration of Rediscover Peterhead and Council Officers working together have created Invest in Peterhead. A team of Estate Agents, Solicitors, Property Owners and Investors have been meeting on a regular basis and recently appointed Allan Jones Associates to create a prospectus for Peterhead, a 6-month marketing initiative, which Rediscover Peterhead will then continue on with for a further 18 months to market the vacant premises and bring void properties back into use.

A successful entrepreneur’s event was held recently for new and start-up businesses.

The next steps will be to finalise the prospectus, ghost planning (where the Local Authority do the work upfront – highlighting the constraints and parameters etc) and marketing strategy. It is planned that the launch will be held in August.

Rediscover Peterhead

Rediscover Peterhead are in the process of recruiting a new BID Manager. Geoff Cooper has been covering the role on a part-time basis in the interim. Scott Donald has also been working on the PR/social media side of things – raising the profile of Rediscover Peterhead and ensuring information is constantly being posted.

The CCTV project was successful in obtaining Scottish Government Town Centre funding and progressing well. A preferred supplier has been appointed. Meetings with Aberdeenshire Council and Police Scotland have been taking place to agree on the exact locations for the cameras. It is hoped the project will be delivered by the end of the year.

The Seafood Festival is progressing well. Rediscover Peterhead are meeting with the appointed consultants, Ideas in Partnership on a regular basis.

Cleaning Up – work is ongoing. The Gulls Project is progressing well, although there are still issues. The final visit from the contractor will take place on 14th July.

To date, Rediscover Peterhead have delivered 9 projects at a cost of £231,000.

A quarterly newsletter is produced and available via the Rediscover Peterhead website.

Possible future projects include town centre wifi, a gift card scheme, painted Peterhead, which has been grant funded – this will be community led once the BID Manager has been appointed.

John and Rediscover Peterhead were thanked for all their hard work.
The expression of interest which was submitted to NLHF has received a fairly positive response. A report was approved by the Buchan Area Committee for £75,000.

A team were recently looking at 34 Broad Street, Peterhead. The study should be completed by mid-August.

The Feuars Managers have agreed for the Town House to be included in the project.

The Kirk Session at the Muckle Kirk are primarily looking at future uses, working towards the same timings as the Town House.

Sensitive enhancements will be made to Broad Street and Threadneedle Street car parks.

The stage 1 HLF will be submitted by the end of the year.

**PACT**

Work has started on the Pavilion – refurbishing the building, creation of a disabled access, new kitchen and toilets.

Concept drawings have been put together for the Victoria Bowling Green.

Phase 3 will include community bowling, a cycle path, garden area, play park, seating area etc and funding streams are currently being investigated.

**Poverty**

The Poverty Summit report was well received by the Buchan Local Community Planning Group. Moving forward, small groups will be formed focusing on the co-ordination of services.

Central School are leading a project over the summer holidays providing food to children.

Councillor Beagrie added that Clerkhill Primary School have also started a Breakfast Club.

**North Connect / Business Engagement Event**

*North Connect* – construction works at Boddam will start soon and there will be a large pool of subcontractors (over 200) coming to the Peterhead area. This will have a positive effect for accommodation providers, catering, transport etc.

*Business Engagement Event* – a useful event was recently held at Peterhead Port with members of Aberdeenshire Council’s Senior Leadership Team, Councillors and local businesses.
A.O.C.B.

Julia Barrie Lifeboat – the exhibition was recently unveiled at the Peterhead Prison Museum which is generating interest from across the world.

Project Officer Town Centres – Heather Barclay has left Aberdeenshire Council. The Project Officer post will be advertised this week with interviews being held in August.

Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the Peterhead Development Partnership will be held on Tuesday, 24th September at 12noon in the Chamber, Buchan House, Peterhead.

Phyllis submitted her apologies for the next meeting.